Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF ANGLICAN HOSPITALS IN OVAMBOLAND

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE CORRESPONDENCE FROM U.S. CITIZENS PROTESTING; A) CLOSURE BY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES OF TWO ANGLICAN CHURCH HOSPITALS IN OVAMBOLAND IN OCTOBER 1974 AND B) THREATENED CLOSURE OF ANGLICAN CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL, ALSO IN OVAMBOLAND. SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF DAMARALAND, RICHARD WOOD, ASSERTED IN LETTER TO DEPARTMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES GAVE TWO REASONS FOR CUTTING OFF SUBSIDIES, THUS FORCING CLOSURE OF HOSPITALS: ALLEGED FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOSPITALS AND LACK OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL FACILITIES. BISHOP WOOD CLAIMS THAT REAL REASON FOR CLOSURE IS SAG DESIRE TO REDUCE INFLUENCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANGLICAN CHURCH IN OVAMBOLAND. ON THE OTHER HAND, DAVID

DEBEER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO BISHOP COLIN WINTER, WROTE RECENTLY TO SAY THAT SAG HAS WITHDRAWN THREAT TO CLOSE HIGH SCHOOL FOR TIME BEING.

2. IN ANTICIPATION OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS

SITUATION, SUGGEST EMBASSY INFORM DFA ORALLY OF INQUIRIES WE ARE RECEIVING AND REQUEST COMMENT ON CHARGES MADE AGAINST HOSPITALS AND BACKGROUND OF THREAT TO CLOSE HIGH SCHOOL. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS MATTER HAS GENERATED POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN IN U.S. CHURCH CIRCLES, KISSINGER

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Subject: CLOSING OF ANGLICAN HOSPITALS IN OVAMBOLAND CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

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To: CAPE TÓWN

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